

deletions, and substitutions of one or more nucleotides. In this regard, such modified genes may be referred to as “variants” of the “native” gene.

**[0050]** Genetic element: a “genetic element” is any discreet nucleotide sequence such as, but not limited to, a promoter, gene, terminator, intron, enhancer, spacer, 5'-untranslated region, 3'-untranslated region, or recombinase recognition site.

**[0051]** Genetic modification: stable introduction of a nucleic acid into the genome of certain organisms by applying methods in molecular and cell biology.

**[0052]** “Gene suppression” or “down-regulation of gene expression” or “inhibition of gene expression” are used interchangeably and refer to a measurable or observable reduction in gene expression or a complete abolition of detectable gene expression, at the level of protein product and/or mRNA product from the target gene. Down-regulation or inhibition of gene expression is “specific” when down-regulation or inhibition of the target gene occurs without manifest effects on other genes of the pest.

**[0053]** Depending on the nature of the target gene, down-regulation or inhibition of gene expression in cells of a pest can be confirmed by phenotypic analysis of the cell or the whole pest or by measurement of mRNA or protein expression using molecular techniques such as RNA solution hybridization, nuclease protection, Northern hybridization, reverse transcription, gene expression monitoring with a microarray, antibody binding, enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), Western blotting, radioimmunoassay (RIA), other immunoassays, or fluorescence-activated cell analysis (FACS).

**[0054]** Gymnosperm, as used herein, refers to a seed plant that bears seed without ovaries. Examples of gymnosperms include conifers, cycads, ginkgos, and ephedras.

**[0055]** Homology, as used herein relates to sequences; Protein, or nucleotide sequences are likely to be homologous if they show a “significant” level of sequence similarity or more preferably sequence identity. Truly homologous sequences are related by divergence from a common ancestor gene. Sequence homologs can be of two types: (i) where homologs exist in different species they are known as orthologs, e.g. the  $\alpha$ -globin genes in mouse and human are orthologs; (ii) paralogues are homologous genes in within a single species. e.g. the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -globin genes in mouse are paralogs.

**[0056]** Host cell: refers to a microorganism, a prokaryotic cell, a eukaryotic cell, or cell line cultured as a unicellular entity that may be, or has been, used as a recipient for a recombinant vector or other transfer of polynucleotides, and includes the progeny of the original cell that has been transfected. The progeny of a single cell may not necessarily be completely identical in morphology or in genomic or total DNA complement as the original parent due to natural, accidental, or deliberate mutation.

**[0057]** Introduction: as used herein, refers to the insertion of a nucleic acid sequence into a cell, by methods including infection, transfection, transformation, or transduction.

**[0058]** Insect pests as used herein pests are include but are not limited to: from the order Lepidoptera, for example, *Acleris* spp., *Adoxophyes* spp., *Aegeria* spp., *Agrotis* spp., *Alabama argillaceae*, *Amylois* spp., *Anticarsia gemmatilis*, *Archips* spp., *Argyrotaenia* spp., *Autographa* spp., *Busseola fusca*, *Cadra cautella*, *Carposina nipponensis*, *Chilo* spp., *Choristoneura* spp., *Clysia ambiguella*, *Cnaphalocrocis* spp., *Cnephasia* spp., *Cochylis* spp., *Coleophora* spp., *Crocido-*

*mia binotalis*, *Cryptophlebia leucotreta*, *Cydia* spp., *Diatraea* spp., *Diparopsis castanea*, *Earias* spp., *Ephestia* spp., *Eucosma* spp., *Eupoecilia ambiguella*, *Euproctis* spp., *Euxoa* spp., *Grapholita* spp., *Hedya nubiferana*, *Heliothis* spp., *Hellula undalis*, *Hyphantria cunea*, *Keiferia lycopersicella*, *Leucoptera scitella*, *Lithocollethis* spp., *Lobesia botrana*, *Lymantria* spp., *Lyonetia* spp., *Malacosoma* spp., *Mamestra brassicae*, *Manduca sexta*, *Operophtera* spp., *Ostrinia Nubilalis*, *Pammene* spp., *Pandemis* spp., *Panolis flammea*, *Pectinophora gossypiella*, *Phthorimaea operculella*, *Pieris rapae*, *Pieris* spp., *Plutella xylostella*, *Prays* spp., *Scirpophaga* spp., *Sesamia* spp., *Sparganothis* spp., *Spodoptera* spp., *Synanthedon* spp., *Thaumetopoea* spp., *Tortrix* spp., *Trichoplusia ni* and *Yponomeuta* spp.;

**[0059]** from the order Coleoptera, for example, *Agriotes* spp., *Anthonomus* spp., *Atomaria linearis*, *Chaetocnema tibialis*, *Cosmopolites* spp., *Curculio* spp., *Dermestes* spp., *Epilachna* spp., *Eremmus* spp., *Leptinotarsa decemlineata*, *Lissorhoptrus* spp., *Melolontha* spp., *Orycaephilus* spp., *Otiorynchus* spp., *Phlyctinus* spp., *Popillia* spp., *Psylliodes* spp., *Rhizopertha* spp., *Scarabaeidae*, *Sitophilus* spp., *Sitotroga* spp., *Tenebrio* spp., *Tribolium* spp. and *Trogoderma* spp.;

**[0060]** from the order Orthoptera, for example, *Blatta* spp., *Blattella* spp., *Gryllotalpa* spp., *Leucophaea maderae*, *Locusta* spp., *Periplaneta* spp., and *Schistocerca* spp.;

**[0061]** from the order Isoptera, for example, *Reticulitermes* spp.; from the order Psocoptera, for example, *Liposcelis* spp.; from the order Anoplura, for example, *Haematopinus* spp., *Linognathus* spp., *Pediculus* spp., *Pemphigus* spp. and *Phylloxera* spp.;

**[0062]** from the order Mallophaga, for example, *Damalina* spp. and *Trichodectes* spp.; from the order Thysanoptera, for example, *Franklinella* spp., *Hercinothrips* spp., *Taeniothrips* spp., *Thrips palmi*, *Thrips tabaci* and *Scirtothrips aurantii*;

**[0063]** from the order Heteroptera, for example, *Cimex* spp., *Distantiella theobroma*, *Dysdercus* spp., *Euchistus* spp., *Eurygaster* spp., *Leptocoris* spp., *Nezara* spp., *Piesma* spp., *Rhodnius* spp., *Sahlbergella singularis*, *Scotinophara* spp., *Triatoma* spp., *Miridae* family spp. such as *Lygus hesperus* and *Lygus lineolaris*, *Lygaeidae* family spp. such as *Blissus leucopterus*, and *Pentatomidae* family spp.;

**[0064]** from the order Homoptera, for example, *Aleurothrixus floccosus*, *Aleyrodes brassicae*, *Aonidiella* spp., *Aphididae*, *Aphis* spp., *Aspidiotus* spp., *Bemisia tabaci*, *Ceroplaster* spp., *Chrysomphalus aonidium*, *Chrysomphalus dictyospermi*, *Coccus hesperidum*, *Empoasca* spp., *Eriosoma larigerum*, *Erythroneura* spp., *Gascardia* spp., *Laodelphax* spp., *Lacanium corni*, *Lepidosaphes* spp., *Macrosiphus* spp., *Myzus* spp., *Nehotettix* spp., *Nilaparvata* spp., *Paratioria* spp., *Pemphigus* spp., *Planococcus* spp., *Pseudaulacaspis* spp., *Pseudococcus* spp., *Psylla* spp., *Pulvinaria aethiopica*, *Quadraspidiotus* spp., *Rhopalosiphum* spp., *Saissetia* spp., *Scaphoideus* spp., *Schizaphis* spp., *Sitobion* spp., *Trialeurodes vaporariorum*, *Trioza erythrae* and *Unaspis citri*;

**[0065]** from the order Hymenoptera, for example, *Acromyrmex*, *Atta* spp., *Cephus* spp., *Diprion* spp., *Diprionidae*, *Gilpinia polytoma*, *Hoplocampa* spp., *Lasius* spp., *Monomorium pharaonis*, *Neodiprion* spp., *Solenopsis* spp. and *Vespa* spp.;

**[0066]** from the order Diptera, for example, *Aedes* spp., *Antherigona soccata*, *Bibio hortulanus*, *Calliphora erythrocephala*, *Ceratitis* spp., *Chrysomyia* spp., *Culex* spp., *Cute-*